

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /062 W

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O R 031622Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1733

INFO DIA/DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4468

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: SITREP NO 11: LABOR CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT

1. LABOR LEADERS CASILDO HERRERAS AND LORENZO MIGUEL WERE MET AT AIRPORT EARLY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY ENTHUSIASTIC PARTISAN CROWD OF ABOUT EIGHT THOUSAND, WHO CHANTED SLOGANS AGAINST LOPEZ REGA, AND COVERED AIRPORT WITH HANDBILLS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CGT AND FOR HERRERAS AND MIGUEL.

2. IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT FOR THE TWO LEADERS MAY HAVE STIFFENED THE SPINES OF THE CGT LEADERS LOCKED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. AT ONE POINT, THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS THAT THEY WERE NEAR A COMPROMISE. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS RECESSED LATE LAST NIGHT, HOWEVER, THE CGT WAS HOLDING INFLEXIBLY TO ITS DEMANDS THAT THE PARITARIAS BE HONORED--ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT TO THE WAGE SCALE. AT THIS POINT, THE GOVERNMENT AND CGT ARE LOCKED IN AN IMPASSE. LABOR SOURCES REPORT CGT IS READY FOR LOPEZ REGA-INSPIRED VIOLENCE, IF IT COMES. MEANWHILE, ALTHOUGH NO GENERAL STRIKE HAS BEEN DECLARED, CONFIDENTIAL

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INDUSTRY IS PARTIALLY PARALYZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

AS SOME WORKERS HAVE DECLARED FULL STRIKE AND OTHERS ARE
SIMPLY SITTING DOWN ON JOB.

3. SENATE, HOWEVER, CAVED IN YESTERDAY TO "OFFER THEY
COULDN'T REFUSE." AFTER KEY SENATORS, INCLUDING CARLOS
EVANS, HAD BEEN CALLED BY AAA AND THREATENED
WITH DEATH IF SENATE PERSISTED IN INTENTION TO ELECT
PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SENATE AND CHAMBER
LEADERS WERE CALLED TO AUDIENCE WITH MRS. PERON AT NOON.
SHE AND RAUL LASTIRI USED VERY HARSH LANGUAGE IN TELLING
THE LEGISLATORS THEY DID NOT WANT A PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT
ELECTED. MRS. PERON INSISTED THAT SHE WOULD SHORTLY SEND
THEM A DRAFT LAW OF SUCCESSION TO REPLACE THE OLD ONE,
AND SHE WISHED THEM TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BEFORE THEY
WENT AHEAD WITH PLANS TO ELECT A NEW LEADER OF THEIR BODY.
REACTING TO COMBINATION OF THREATS AND APPEALS TO VERTICALITY,
KEY PERONIST SENATORS CAVED AND AGREED TO AT LEAST TEMPORARILY
ABANDON IDEA OF ELECTING PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT. UCR, OTHER
OPPOSITION PARTIES AND PERONIST ALLIES IN FREJULI ARE ALL
FURIOUS OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS A "SELLOUT." THERE IS
SOME TALK OF TRYING TO GET TOGETHER A QUORUM DESPITE THE
ATTITUDE OF THE PERONIST LEADERS OF THE SENATE.

4. COMMENT. TENSIONS REMAIN HIGH AS CRISIS DRAGS
INTO ITS SIXTH DAY WITH NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT.
RESENTMENTS HAVE BEEN SO HEIGHTENED AND BODY POLITIC
SO POLARIZED (ANTI LOPEZ REGA FORCES VERSUS LOPEZ REGISTRAS)
THAT EVEN IF GOVERNMENT AND CGT SHOULD STRIKE SOME
COMPROMISE ON WAGE ISSUE, POLITICAL REVERBERATIONS
ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, SITREP 11, LABOR DISPUTES, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS04468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750231-0208
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750784/aaaacwqu.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP NO 11: LABOR CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ASEC, PINS, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006